

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

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August 27, 2012

Information Re: Morses Pond Northern Basin Dredging Project

Dear Morses Pond Watershed Resident:

Please be aware that the Town's Morses Pond Northern Basin Dredging Project will begin in early September and the dredging portion of the project will be completed by the end of the year. The project will involve the hydraulic dredging, pumping, and disposal of sediments at the Northern Basin of the pond Mondays through Fridays, from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. (in accordance with Town Bylaw). The attached site plan shows the area of the pond that will be dredged and the areas where sediment and water from the pond will be pumped and drained. Hydraulic dredging involves the use of a large siphon to remove sediment material. This material will then be pumped and drained at the Town Beach, where clean material will be used to replenish the sand. Additional sediment from the pond will be pumped to the St. James parking lot, where it will be allowed to settle in large "GeoTubes" through mid-April 2013, and the material will then be hauled off-site.

This project is the third and final substantial component of the implementation of the 2005 Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Plan, which is a collaborative effort between the Natural Resources Commission, Board of Public Works, and Recreation Commission. The first component was the purchase of a new weed harvester to remove invasive plants in the pond. The second component was the installation of a phosphorus inactivation system designed to help capture phosphorus and prevent it from entering the pond, thereby reducing algae growth and improving water clarity.

The dredging of the Northern Basin will restore the pond's detention capacity, which will allow particulate matter to settle in the Northern Basin before reaching the main part of the pond. The removal of soft sediment and plant material that have accumulated over many decades will help improve the overall health and clarity of the pond and will prevent it from becoming a wetland.

While a limited amount of noise is anticipated as a result of the project, it should not present a nuisance to residents around the Pond, nor should there be any substantial odor. **For your safety, there should be no swimming, canoeing, kayaking or any other activity in or near the dredging area.** Should you wish to learn more about the project or have any questions please feel free to contact me at: jbowser@welleleyma.gov or at 781-431-1019, ext. 2290.

Very truly yours,

Janet Hartke Bowser
NRC Director